

# SOLACE



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF SUBSTANCE USE  
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS



## 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE / ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THEME

BUILDING A MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION  
NETWORK IN NIGERIA

SUB-THEME

THE FUTURE OF DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION IN NIGERIA:  
CAPACITY BUILDING, CERTIFICATION & CREDENTIALING

Venue

Chelsea Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria





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**T**he 4th National Conference of the Nigerian Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals was held on October 25, 2022 in Abuja. ISSUP Nigeria Chapter Conference is a forum to bring together practitioners, experts, stakeholders, and advocates of drug demand reduction in Nigeria.

The theme for this year's conference is "Building a Multidisciplinary Drug Demand Reduction Network in Nigeria" with sub theme "The Future of Drug Demand Reduction in Nigeria: Capacity Building, Certification and Credentialing."



The theme and sub-theme were carefully selected in line with ISSUP Nigeria's vision which is:

- i. To enhance collaboration with governmental agencies, ministries and parastatals, civil society organisations, individual stakeholders, families, community and religious institutions among other stakeholders bearing in mind that everyone has a role to play in addressing the issues of substance use and abuse.
- ii. To build a united, trained, skilled, knowledgeable, and effective multidisciplinary national network of substance use prevention, treatment, recovery professionals and researchers to undertake and promote high quality evidence-based interventions and policies.

Building on the success of previous events, ISSUP Nigeria conference has become a wide scale and most extensive drug demand reduction summit in Nigeria for its high level and the large size of participation. The conference was joined by hundreds of participants.



The presence of dignitaries, an impressive lineup of DDR professionals from across the globe who attended physically and virtually, a great welcome address by ISSUP Nigeria Chapter President, Dr. Martin Agwogie, a carefully selected, well researched and well-presented paper by Professor Bola Ola, followed by seasoned remarks and goodwill messages by Joanna Travis-Roberts, Chief Executive ISSUP Global, Brig. Gen. Mohammed B. Marwa (rtd), CON, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, NDLEA, Jason Smith, INL

Country Director, Dr. Osagie E. Ehanire, CON, The Honourable Minister of Health, Her Excellency, Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, African Union, Dr. Oliver Stolpe, UNODC Country Representative, His Excellency, Senator Douye Diri, Governor of Bayelsa State or their representatives all added up to make the conference impeccable and a huge success.

The one day conference comprised of incisive and insightful discussions on various facets of the issue of capacity building, certification and credentialing as reflected through the prism of current multidisciplinary needs and practice. The views expressed and explored during the conference by the guest lecturer and panel discussants made the audience understand and appreciate the importance of capacity building and quality delivery of service by drug demand reduction professionals.

The Conference owes its success to the able guidance of ISSUP Nigeria President, Dr. Martin Agwogie, the executive council members and the hard work put in by the entire local organising committee led by the visionary Chairman, Prof. Suwa Goar



From left, Prof. Soar Goar, Dr. Martin Agwogie, Prof. Gboyega Abikoye supervising activities ahead of the conference

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT,  
NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS (ISSUP NIGERIA CHAPTER)  
AT THE 4TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE/ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE ASSOCIATION – OCTOBER 25, 2022, ABUJA**



Protocol,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the fourth national conference/annual general meeting of the Nigerian Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP Nigeria Chapter).

Since the formal inauguration of the Association on the 17th of October 2019, ISSUP Nigeria Chapter has remained committed to the promotion of evidence-based substance use prevention, treatment, recovery and contributing to drug policy development in Nigeria. To consolidate on our resolve in this direction, the theme for this conference which is "Building a Multidisciplinary Drug Demand Reduction Network in Nigeria" with



sub theme "The Future of Drug Demand Reduction in Nigeria: Capacity Building, Certification and Credentialing" was carefully selected to enhance collaboration across board: government agencies, political office holders, professionals, civil societies, families, community leaders and other stakeholders bearing in mind that everyone has a role to play in addressing the issues of substance use and abuse.

The theme is also in line with our vision which is to build a united, trained, skilled, knowledgeable, and effective multidisciplinary national network of substance use prevention, treatment, recovery professionals and researchers to undertake and promote high quality evidence-based interventions and policies.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, within the past 12 months, ISSUP Nigeria Chapter consolidated on achievements of the previous years. One of which was the introduction of addiction studies in our universities. In my welcome address at the formal inauguration of the Association in 2019, I stated, "... we are in collaboration with relevant stakeholders towards the introduction of substance use prevention, treatment and policy as a standard international course of study in higher institutions of learning in Nigeria. ... In few years from now, we shall have addiction studies being offered from first degree to doctoral levels. The resultant workforce will have sound theoretical and research background that would enhance evidence-based interventions to address the burden of drug issues that affect segments in our great nation". Just within three years of this declaration, I am pleased to announce that two universities in Nigeria have approved post graduate courses in addiction studies and one of which is the Niger Delta University in Bayelsa State. This approval would not have been possible without the strong support of His Excellency Senator Douye Diri, the Executive Governor of Bayelsa state. This is a significant achievement in the development of drug demand reduction in Nigeria that we have to honour His Excellency today with an award as an "Ambassador for a Drug Free Nigeria". Beyond the introduction of addiction studies in the university, His Excellency has demonstrated unique character in supporting drug demand reduction initiatives

in Bayelsa state within a short period of his administration. Within a short time of his assumption of office, His Excellency inaugurated the Bayelsa State Drug Abuse Control Committee, which is today, one of the very few and functional state drug abuse control committees in Nigeria. Bayelsa state is one of the 3 states in Nigeria that has adapted the UNPLUGGED school-based training manual for substance use prevention with the training of 124 secondary school teachers, one of the highest numbers in any state in Nigeria. Similarly, secondary school counsellors have been trained using the TREATNET module. Available records shows that His Excellency was one of the very few state governors who physically took part in the activities to commemorate the 2022 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (2022 World Drug Day) which started with the UNPLUGGED training in the state. These, among other signs, demonstrate exceptional commitments to effective drug control in not only Bayelsa state but in Nigeria thereby promoting the health and well-being of the citizens, particularly the young ones. We call on other state governors and other stakeholders to emulate His Excellency in this area.

Considering the nexus between drug use, trafficking and crime, the recent success in addressing the issues of insecurity in Nigeria cannot be divorced from the recent clampdown on high profile drug traffickers and seizures of large quantities of psychoactive substances by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). It is on this note that ISSUP Nigeria Chapter want to commend the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. General Mohammed Buba Marwa (rtd), CON, for the achievements since assumption of office, while calling for more. We also commend the Federal Ministry of Health for the different public health initiatives in drug demand reduction in Nigeria, including the harm reduction policy. ISSUP Nigeria Chapter will continue to support government policies and interventions that are evidence-based and cost effective.

Ladies and gentlemen, at this conference we shall be listening to lectures from one of our renowned experts in this field, panel discussion, remarks/goodwill messages from some of our local and international partners and listen to our Special Guests of Honour. We will also recognise some of our colleagues who have done excellently well in the discharge of their responsibilities in the past one year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Executive Council and members of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter, I wish to express appreciation to our local and international partners and sponsors, particularly the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), Nigeria office for all the support. And to everyone, I welcome you all to this conference.

Thank you

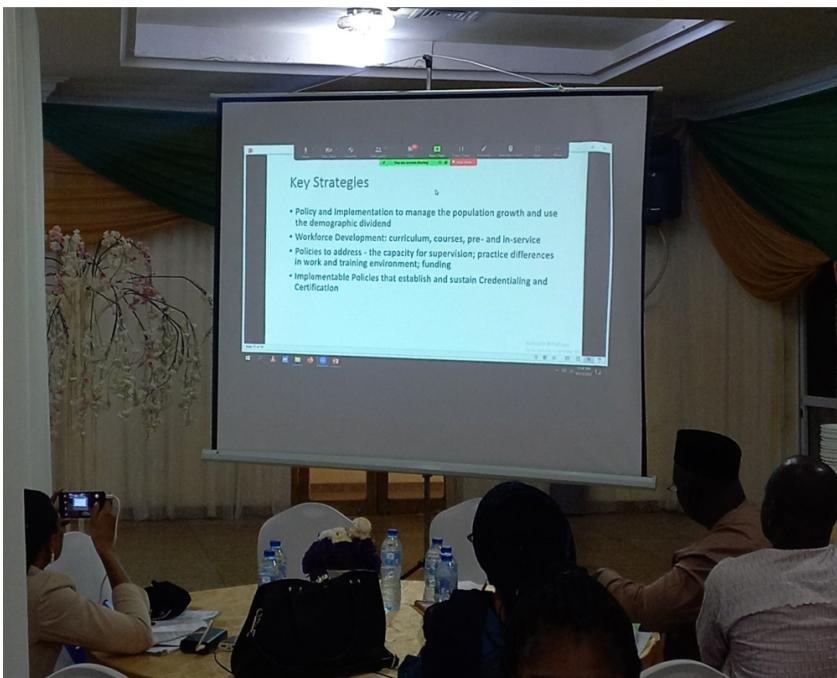
**Martin O. Agwogie, PhD, ICAP II**  
**National President, ISSUP Nigeria Chapter**

*Season's  
Greetings*

From all of us at  
ISSUP Nigeria Chapter

**THE FUTURE OF DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION IN NIGERIA:  
CAPACITY BUILDING, CERTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALALING.”**

The paper presentation looked critically at the implication of poor workforce in drug demand reduction, noting that there is insufficient number of health professionals who are well trained and competent in the field of drug demand reduction - prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery in Nigeria. Lack of adequately trained staff will result to negative impacts on service provider's ability to expand service coverage to meet the growing need for substance use disorders (SUD) services.



The guest lecturer, Prof. Bola Ola is a 2012 Fulbright Scholar and Vice President of the Nigerian Branch of Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Alumni Association. He was an invited lecturer at professorial level on the MSc in Global Mental Health at the University of Glasgow 2012-2019. Furthermore, he was a member of the medical personnel at African Women Championship in October, 1998 and FIFA/World Youth Championship, April, 1999.

Within the field of Mood Disorders, Bola is a listed expert on depression on Expertscape, and is a Fellow of International Society of Affective Disorders, as well as of Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology. Within the field of addiction, Bola is a UNODC global trainer, Strengthening Family Program facilitator, a National trainer in Universal Prevention Curriculum, immediate past National Coordinator of the International Consortium of Universities on Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR) and Lagos State Coordinator of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter. He is an Ambassador of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America in Nigeria and an African Regional Representative for International Program in Addiction Sciences. He had received awards among which are a Certificate of Merit from National Drug Law Enforcement Agency; and NIDA-ISAM Fellowship Grant Award.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Charles Nnaemeka Nwoga and Mr. Ejikeme McBishops Ogueji had Dr. Oluwayemi Ogun, Former Medical Director FNPH, Yaba, Lagos, Dr. Ngozi A. Madubuike, Director, Drug Demand Reduction, NDLEA, Dr. Jimoh O. Salaudeen, mni, Director/Head of Harm Reduction Unit, Federal Ministry of Health, Mrs. Maria Ilugbuhi, CEO, The Shelter Youth and Community Network as speakers conducted a highly engaging session which analysed the issues of the importance of drug demand reduction in Nigeria, who regulates the practice of DDR and the plans in the pipeline to make sure this is done. The panelists also shared some of the training and learning opportunities that are available for a DDR professional to build their expertise in Nigeria.



## AWARDS

“Ambassador for a Drug Free Nigeria” award was presented to His Excellency Senator Douye Diri, the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State. This award celebrates the strong support of His Excellency towards drug demand reduction initiatives in Bayelsa State.

One of his great contributions to the development of drug demand reduction is the approval of post graduate course in addiction studies in Niger Delta University in Bayelsa State, making the university one of the two universities that currently offer post graduate courses in addiction studies in Nigeria.



Bayelsa State Commissioner for Health with  
ISSUP Nigeria Chapter President at the Conference



The award was received on his behalf by the commissioner for Health Bayelsa State, Dr. Pabara Newton Igwele. In other categories of award, a Zonal Coordinator and two Branch coordinators of ISSUP Nigeria Chapter were recognised for their excellent performances. Ms. Uchechi C. Onukogu (Zonal Coordinator - South South) received an award as the best performing zonal coordinator, while Prof. Bolanle Adeyemi Ola (Coordinator - Lagos Branch) and Dr. Ujunwa Callista Nduanya (Coordinator - Enugu Branch) were jointly awarded the best performing state coordinators for the year 2021/2022.

Heartiest Congratulations to all the awardees



David Folarammi and Adjai Eyeuche with  
Dr Ujunwa Uduanya's award

## PHOTO SESSION



*The President Dr. Martin Agwogie and the Oyo State Coordinator Mr. Seye Omiyefa*



*Dr. Igwele receiving an award on behalf of His Excellency, Senator Douye Diri, the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State*

## PHOTO SESSION



## PHOTO SESSION



## ISSUP KADUNA BRANCH IN FOCUS

Ms. Fatima Abiola Popoola, who served as ISSUP Kaduna Branch coordinator since 2019, handed over to a newly appointed Coordinator, Dr Ronke Grace Awopetu. This special handover event took place 20th December, 2022 at Martaba Millennium Hotel, Kaduna.

Dr. Awopetu is an academically and professionally registered Clinical Psychologist with Nigerian Psychological Association and Nigerian Association of Clinical Psychologists, with fifteen years' experience in teaching, research and providing community services in conventional and military universities.

She has served the two associations dedicatedly in different capacities as a treasurer (NPA & NACP) and financial secretary (NPA) which earned her a fellow of NPA in 2017 and NACP in 2019 respectively. Dr. Awopetu is currently a Clinical Psychologist and lecturer with Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Kaduna.

Ms. Popoola assumed a higher position as the Assistant Zonal Coordinator North Central Zone.



## APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to colleagues who have assumed different roles in ISSUP Nigeria Chapter and partner organizations



**Ejikeme Mcbishops Ogueji**  
Asst. Gen. Secretary and  
Member of the Executive Council



**Rev. Fr. Christopher Aghogho Ogaga**  
Delta State Coordinator



**Titilope Monsurat Ogunluyi**  
Lagos State Coordinator



**Maryam Muhammed**  
Kano State Coordinator



**Pharm. Sanusi Mohammad Salisu**  
Jigawa State Coordinator



**Ms. Fatima Abiola Popoola**  
Asst. Zonal Coordinator - North Central Zone



**Dr. Damian Chinedu Nzeb**  
FCT Coordinator



**Dr. Ronke Grace Awopetu**  
Kaduna State Coordinator



**Prof. Michael Ezenwa**  
National Coordinator ICUDDR